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SEP 23 1999

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September 21, 1999

Ms. Wendy R. Dixon
EIS Project Manager
Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Office
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management
United States Department of Energy
1180 Town Center Drive, M/S 010
Las Vegas, NV 89134


RE: Attached Resolution from the Mayor and City Council of the City of Mesquite,
Nevada

Dear Ms. Dixon:

Please read the enclosed Resolution from the City of Mesquite concerning the Yucca Mountain Project in general and the transportation of nuclear materials via Interstate 15 through the Virgin River Gorge and the City of Mesquite specifically. Please call or write me if you have any questions.

Please add this Resolution to the materials you have in opposition to the Yucca Mountain Project in general and specifically in opposition to the proposed route through our area.

Sincerely,


Terrance P. Marren
City Attorney

cc: Honorable Mayor and City Council
Bryan H. Montgomery, City Manager
Mrs. Alice Fessenden

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF MESQUITE, NEVADA REGARDING THE
TRANSPORTATION OF NUCLEAR WASTE, RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL AND
NUCLEAR SPENT FUEL THROUGH THE CITY OF MESQUITE**

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Energy has attempted for over two decades to store nuclear waste, radioactive material and nuclear spent fuel in the State of Nevada at Yucca Mountain which is located less than 100 miles north of Las Vegas, Nevada; and

WHEREAS, if the Department of Energy ultimately prevails in its efforts to make Yucca Mountain a nuclear storage facility, one likely route for the transportation of nuclear waste, radioactive material and nuclear spent fuel on its way to Yucca Mountain, per documents prepared by the Department of Energy, would be on Interstate 15 through the City of Mesquite; and

WHEREAS, if the route for the transportation of nuclear waste, radioactive material and nuclear spent fuel does go through the City of Mesquite via Interstate 15, that route would also be through the Virgin River Gorge via Interstate 15 which is in the State of Arizona is only ten miles north of the City of Mesquite; and

WHEREAS, the path of Interstate 15 through the Virgin River Gorge is an extremely narrow passage, barely wide enough to accommodate the lanes of Interstate 15 at several points; and

1 **WHEREAS**, Interstate 15 is a major traffic artery through Utah, Arizona, Nevada and California, a spill of nuclear waste, radioactive material or nuclear spent fuel in the Virgin River Gorge on Interstate 15 could have catastrophic effects on the environment of the Virgin River which travels through the Virgin River Gorge along Interstate 15 and on interstate travel and commerce, perhaps for decades; and

2 **WHEREAS**, the Virgin River may be the home of certain endangered species of fish, other wildlife and fauna; and

WHEREAS, the City of Mesquite is the fastest growing community in the United States of America by percentage of growth and currently is home to 15,000 residents and will double in size within the next four years if the current growth rate continues as is expected; and

WHEREAS, the City of Mesquite has experienced \$700 million in new home construction in the past decade and has become a favored residential destination for golf enthusiasts and senior citizens; and

3 **WHEREAS**, if an accident occurred on Interstate 15 at Nevada Exit 122 which caused Pioneer Boulevard to be blocked at Interstate 15, an accident such as occurred in Kingman, Arizona in 1997, approximately seven thousand citizens of Mesquite would be stranded for an indefinite

3 continued period of time since Pioneer Boulevard is the only road from Interstate 15 and the City of Mesquite to approximately 7,000 residents living above Pioneer Boulevard; and

WHEREAS, Interstate 15 goes through the center of the population of the City of Mesquite and many businesses and homes are adjacent or in close proximity to Interstate 15; and

4 WHEREAS, the undeclared transportation routes planned by the Department of Energy are of particular concern to the City of Mesquite since the Department of Energy does not even acknowledge the existence of the City of Mesquite on its official maps of the area; and

4 (cont'd.) WHEREAS, Nuclear Regulatory Commission Regulation 1437, dated February of 1999, does not acknowledge or recognize the City of Mesquite in its discussion of a proposed route through our City and the stated proposed route mistakenly states it would go through the unincorporated Township of Overton, Nevada which is over ten miles off Interstate 15 in a rural farm community on an extremely dangerous and narrow road system; and

5 WHEREAS, the actions of the Department of Energy to date show a complete ignorance of the location of the City of Mesquite and a total lack of concern about what an accident involving the spilling of nuclear waste, radioactive material or nuclear spent fuel in the City of Mesquite or the Virgin River Gorge would have on the City of Mesquite, its citizens, its commerce and its environment.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Mesquite City Council declares by Resolution the following:

- 6 1. The City of Mesquite opposes the establishment of a storage facility at Yucca Mountain for nuclear waste, radioactive material and nuclear spent fuel.
- 7 2. The City of Mesquite opposes the transportation of any nuclear waste, radioactive material and nuclear spent fuel through the Virgin River Gorge or the City of Mesquite.
3. The City of Mesquite resolves to resist the storage of nuclear waste, radioactive materials and spent nuclear fuel at Yucca Mountain and the transportation of the same through the State of Nevada generally and the City of Mesquite specifically and to lend its support toward efforts to oppose said project by all lawful means.

Passed and Adopted this 14th day of September, 1999.

THE CITY OF MESQUITE

By: Charles Horne
Charles Horne, Mayor

ATTEST:

By: Carol Woods
Carol Woods, City Clerk